(b) whether both the companies lost their special status which they enjoyed earlier;

(c) whether they are to partwith precious data to the private parties for the blocks on which they have worked for long, at huge costs; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), ONGC and OIL will have level playing field vis-a-vis private companies. They will be eligible for the same fiscal and contract terms as available to other private companies including getting international price of oil for discoveries made in Blocks awarded under the new policy. Under the NELP, they will need to compete for obtaining petroleum exploration licenses.

(c) and (d) Under NELP, Government seeks to achieve through competition the most effective exploration efforts in the country. It is considered to be in public interest to share the available data on the offered areas with the eligible bidders in order to attract greater investment flows in this critical sector. On the offered areas, if the ONGC and OIL have already obtained some data, for making it available, the Government will appropriately compensate them for the cost of acquisition of this data.

Use of blends of Alcohol Gasoline and Diesel as automotive fuel

3577. SHRI RAJUBHAIA PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun has recommended the use of low level blends of alcohol with gasoline and diesel as the automotive fuel for controlling vehicular emissions in metropolitan cities, especially in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the test results of the use of different methanol blended fuel and what are the various blends recommended for use in different types of automotive vehicles; and

(c) what decisions have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun had carried out studies that revealed that low level blends of methanol/ethanol with petrol is one of the means for reducing the vehicular emissions. The use of alcohols, both methanol and ethanol has been studied using dual-fuel approach in diesel vehicles for reducing vehicular emissions, particularly smoke.

The Ministry of Food (Deptt. of Sugar) has also set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Food) to examine the possibility of mixing of ethanol produced by Sugar manufacturing/Distillery units with petrol/diesel.

Items included in the Oil Pool Account basket

3578. SHRI N. GIRIPRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the items that make-up the full basket for oil pool account;

(b) the petroleum products handled by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas that are not included in the Oil Pool Account basket; and

(c) the reasons therefor?